

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 11, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 1 is hereby amended and claims 6 and 10-18 are hereby canceled. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9 are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 and 6-9 contain allowable subject matter and thus would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With this amendment, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 6 into claim 1. As such, claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art. Claims 2 and 5 variously depend on claim 1 and thus are patentable over the cited prior art at least for the same reasons as claim 1. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

Application No.: 10/516,493
Amdt. dated November 09, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated August 11, 2006

Docket No.: 29137.005.00

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: November 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By


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